

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: May 28 – June 3, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

5/22: Lynn Evans began work as a volunteer for the wolf program in region 1. Lynn is a wildlife conservation student at Delaware College, PA

5/25: Laudon, Whitehead, and Evans began surveying for wolves north of Troy along the Idaho border. Local residents have reported wolves killing one dog, injuring another, and in a corral with a horse, and seeing wolves frequently. The entire area was surveyed and trail cameras were deployed. No sign was found.

5/27 – 6/31: Laudon, Whitehead, and Evans began den surveys for Kootenai North, Candy Mountain, Bearfite, Preacher, Twilight, O'Brien, Pulpit, and Solomon Mountain packs, and other areas of interest around Troy, Libby and Yaak.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

5/31: WS confirmed another calf killed by a wolf or wolves in the Dell area on private land. WS continues to work on the existing management action to kill one and collar one.

5/31: WS confirmed 6 more calves killed on private property near Avon. Three of the calves found were likely killed Wed or Thursday of last week. One was killed Saturday morning (5/28) and one was killed Monday morning (5/30). Four wolves were seen in the area over the weekend and FWP has authorized the removal of all 4 wolves. Shoot-on-site permits have been issued to affected landowners.

5/31: A 3 year old adult male wolf was trapped and killed as part of the Avon wolf removal authorization. WS continues to work on the management action.

6/2: A yearling male wolf was trapped and killed by WS east of Darby. This was part of the 5/23 authorization to remove 4 wolves from the Divide Creek pack. WS continues to work on the management action.

See below chart for total confirmed livestock conflicts per month as recorded by FWP. The data shown reflect # of incidents, not # of livestock killed.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

5/19: Laudon spoke to a group at the Stoltze Land and Lumber annual landowner and logger spring meeting on the current status of wolves and the Montana Wolf Management Program. About 40 in attendance.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

OTHER UPDATES:

With the retirement of Margot Zallen, Ed Bangs, and Steve Fritts, June 3rd marks the end of an era in the northern Rocky Mountain wolf program. Collectively, these 3 distinguished professionals contributed almost 90 years of public service to the USFWS. Their leadership and expertise paved the way for wolf recovery. Margot, Ed, and Steve, will be sorely missed and we wish them the very best in their retirement. Congratulations!

Abigail Nelson, the new Livingston wolf specialist, completed her Thesis work recently titled: "The influence of migratory and resident elk distribution on seasonal wolf habitat selection and predation patterns in Northwest Wyoming". Congratulations Abby!!

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.

Depredation Events in Montana, 1987-2010

